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1946

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

for the  
URBAN DISTRICT  
(Municipal Borough)  
OF ROMSEY



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# ANNUAL REPORT

for 1946

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

### Urban District (Municipal Borough) of Romsey

*To the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of Romsey.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1946.

#### SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1212
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6390
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£35,735
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£140

A Brewery, Paper Mills, a Nursery and a Jam Factory give employment to a proportion of the population. The rest of the inhabitants are mostly engaged in retail trade or other occupations common to a Market Town. Romsey is well situated as a Centre and attracts people working in the Towns nearby. This attractiveness has its disadvantages, as the young people do not appear to like to leave the Town and marry and live at home giving rise to temporary overcrowding, while the houses are being built.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live Births.	Legitimate	41	56	97	} Birth rate 16.4 per 1000 population).
	Illegitimate	2	6	8	
Still births	.....	1	3	4	Rate 36 (per 1000 live and still births).
Deaths.		42	31	73	Death rate 11.4 (per 1000 population).
Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth		}		From Sepsis	..... 0
				From other causes	..... 1

## INFANTILE MORTALITY. Death rate of infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1000 live births	.....	.....	.....	.....	47
Legitimate per 1000 legitimate live births	.....	.....	.....	.....	51
Illegitimate per 1000 illegitimate live births	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
Deaths from Cancer all ages	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Deaths from Measles all ages	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

The birth rate and the death rate are about average. The number of illegitimate births has decreased and is now about average. There was no excessive mortality from any cause. Of all causes of death Heart Disease accounted for 23, Cerebral Hemorrhage 8, Cancer 12 and Tuberculosis 4. Cancer and Tuberculosis are slightly above the average and the rest are about average.

The improvement in the health of the School and Welfare child has continued. The children appear to be fairly well clothed considering the difficulties of obtaining suitable clothing but the footwear is not good. The physical condition of the adults appears to be deteriorating owing to an insufficient supply of fats, and it is to be hoped that additional supplies of wool will be available to counteract to some extent the ill effects of this deficiency.

## SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

### 1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (a) The Medical Officer of Health is also Assistant Medical Officer County Council and Medical Officer of Health of the adjoining Rural District of Romsey and Stockbridge.
- (b) The Sanitary Inspector is also Borough Surveyor.
- (c) Additional Sanitary Inspector.
- (d) A veterinary Surgeon for the inspection of Dairies etc.

### 2. Nursing in the Home.

There is no nursing arrangement or contribution by the Local Authority.

### 3. Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory Facilities are provided by the County Laboratory and the emergency Public Health Laboratory, Winchester.

### 4. Hospitals.

- (a) The Romsey and District Hospital.  
The Royal South Hants.  
Broadlands Annex.
- (b) Infections. Where cases cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home they are admitted, by arrangement, to the Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital.
- (c) Ambulance.  
For infectious cases an ambulance is provided by the Isolation Hospital Authorities.
- (d) Tuberculosis.  
The County Council provide Dispensaries and Sanatoria.
- (e) Orthopaedic.  
Children from the area attend the clinics at Eastleigh.



5. Scabies Clinic.

This is held at the Gas Cleansing Station, Love Lane. Staff: The Health Visitor and Mr. and Mrs. Kemp.

All members of the family are treated if possible, those with evidence of scabies get two treatments, others one.

7 men, 13 women, 25 children. Total 45 were treated.

## **SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

### **Report of the Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.**

#### **1. Water.**

The area is supplied with a piped supply by the Southampton Corporation from their Waterworks Pumping Station at Timsbury. The quality of the water is good and the supply 'constant.' A few houses in isolated spots still obtain their supply from shallow wells which are liable to contamination.

With few exceptions all houses are supplied direct from the mains, but instances remain of bib-taps being situated in common yards, and shared by more than one household.

#### **2. Drainage and Sewerage.**

The drains of all properties are connected with the sewerage system and it is only in exceptional cases that septic tanks are necessary, that is, where the properties are not within reasonable distance of a sewer. The exceptional cases occur in the added area of the Borough, but almost the whole of the available land within the boundaries of the old Borough is served by a sewer leading to a pumping station at Sadler's Mill, from which it is pumped to the Sewage Disposal Works.

During the year under review 84,410,802 gallons of sewage were pumped to the Sewage Works at Greenhill to receive treatment. The increase over the average expected was due to the excessive rainfall and subsequent infiltration into the sewers. The quantity dealt with is equivalent to an average twenty-four hour flow of 231,263 gallons, which is the discharge expected from a population of 11,563 persons at an allowance of 20 gallons per head per day. During the six winter months 53,366,361 gallons were pumped, equal to an average 24 hour flow of 292,418 gallons—a discharge expected from a population of 14,620 persons and during the six summer months 31,044,441 gallons were pumped equal to an average 24 hour flow of 170,754 gallons—the discharge expected from a population of 8,537 persons, allowing in both instances 20 gallons per head per day.

Due to a lack of attention and proper maintenance during the war years the Disposal Works are now in need of a complete overhaul.

The amount of rainfall during the year registered at the Disposal Works was 14.18 inches, 19.68 of which fell in the winter months and 20.5 in the summer months.

### 3. Rivers and Streams.

There is little pollution of the streams passing through the Area. No flooding was experienced in the District during the year.

### 4. (i) Closet Accommodation.

The District, except in a few isolated cases, is on the water carriage system.

### (ii) Public Cleansing.

The service is covered by Direct Labour over the whole of the District and Mechanical Transport is used. All premises are visited once per week, and in certain cases where the volume of the refuse is heavy the visits are more frequent. Generally the arrangements are satisfactory.

The return of refuse collected during the year is as follows :—

<i>Quarter.</i>	<i>No. of Loads Collected.</i>	<i>Total Weights.</i>	
		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
31st March .....	254	571	0
30th June .....	268	603	0
30th September	276	621	0
31st December	240	540	0
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total for year	1038	2335	0
<hr/>		<hr/>	
<i>Total for previous year</i> 1002		1020	0

The collection of waste and other materials was continued throughout the year, and 51 tons, for which £282 was received were returned to industry.

All the highways received weekly cleansing, the Main Roads being cleansed by arrangement with the County Council who contribute towards the cost. 104 loads of street sweepings with an estimated weight of 208 tons were collected during the year.

The refuse collected is taken to the Refuse Disposal Works at Budd's Lane, and after sorting is tipped into adjoining meadows in the manner of "Controlled tipping."

### iii. Sanitary Inspection in the Area.

Inspection of the District has been carried out as often as possible, and individual complaints received immediate attention.

The total number of Sanitary Inspections amounted to 406 and 104 nuisances were discovered and subsequently abated.

During the year 4 fumigations were carried out after cases of Infectious Disease.

### (iv.) Shops.

Informal action was taken in two cases regarding sanitary accommodation under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which was complied with.

### (v) Camping Sites.

(1) No sites were used for camping purposes during the year.

(2) No licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 were issued by the Local Authority during the year.

(3) Estimated number of campers resident in the Area at one time—10.

(vi) **Smoke Abatement.**

No complaints were received during the year. The Borough has very few factories.

(vii) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

Bathing for members of the male sex has, for a great number of years, taken place in a portion of the Fish lake Stream towards the upper reaches of the Town. The river is continually flowing—the source of supply being the River Test.

The corporation also possess an up-to-date open air Swimming Pool equipped with water purification plant. The pool was very well patronised during the year ; samples of the pool water are taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological examination. The reports on the condition of the water were very satisfactory, and no adverse report has been received.

(viii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Number of Council Houses found to be infested	.....	.....	Nil
Other Houses	do.	.....	Nil
Number of cyanide fumigations carried out during the year	.....	.....	Nil

5. **Schools.**

An efficient system of supervision ensuring good and proper sanitary conditions on School premises was invariably met with. The sanitary accommodation and drainage is connected with the Council sewers and is on the water carriage system.

Water supplies for all purposes are direct from mains of high pressure character, affording abundant and pure deliveries.

Conditions were found to be uniformly good.

**SECTION D. Housing.**

**New buildings and Housing.**

Twenty five building plans were submitted for approval during the year, four of which were for the erection of a total of twenty eight houses, three for adaptation of existing houses into flats and two for improvements by additions of bathrooms to houses.

Two Housing Schemes were commenced, one at Alma Road for 64 traditional type houses, the other at Botley Road for temporary bungalows. The former comprises 45—3 bedroom types, 13—four bedroom types and six Aged Persons Bungalows. Twenty of these were under construction at the end of the year. The latter scheme comprising 20 Alcon Mark v Temporary Bungalows was completed during the year.

The standard of fitness for more than 50% of the property, suitable for housing working classes in the Borough, is well below the Standard recommended by the Ministry of Health and more than 20% are in such a state of dilapidation as to be incapable of repair at reasonable expense. In addition more than 400 applications for Council Houses have been received from families living in overcrowded conditions and a continuous new housing programme is therefore amply justified.



**SECTION E. Inspection of Foods and Production.**

**The Veterinary Surgeon's Report, 1946.**

ALMA HOUSE,  
ROMSEY, HAMPSHIRE.

**1. Milk Supply.**

Inspections of cowsheds and dairies were made during the year, 1946, with regard to drainage, water supply, ventilation and lighting of the former and cleanliness and method of the latter. In all cases satisfactory results were encountered.

**2. Meat.**

Inspection of meat in all shops has been made, upon request of the butchers, in cases of material being suspected as being in an unfit state for human consumption, and all such meat was condemned and destroyed. No slaughtering of animals is now carried out in the Borough, all meat both home produced and imported, being delivered from the Southampton depots.

Tainted fish was also dealt with in the same manner, and the wholesale suppliers informed.

All shops, stores and vehicles were periodically inspected for cleanliness.

E. H. DAYUS,  
M.R.C.V.S.

**SECTION F. Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other diseases.**

Where cases cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home, they are admitted to the Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital and if they are unable to be admitted there, they are admitted to the Southampton Isolation Hospital.

The incidence of infectious disease was very low. There were no cases of Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever.

*Diphtheria Immunisation.* Children of school age are immunised by me at School. The under school age are partly done by local practitioners at their Surgeries and at the Welfare Centre. Diphtheria Immunisation has vbeen carried out since 1935 and a large proportion of the young population have been immunised. At the end of 1946 the number of children between 1 and 15 who have been immunised were as follows :—

Under 1 year 8; 1 year, 64; 2 years, 87; 3 years, 58; 4 years, 60; 5 to 9 years 394; 10 to 14 years 396.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1946.**

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total number Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever .....	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
Erysipelas .....	1	0	0
Chicken Pox .....	17	0	0
Ophthalmia .....	1	0	0



CANCER.

Deaths—Males 6. Females 6. Total 12. The number of deaths is about average.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases Notified 4. Pulmonary, Males 1. Females 2.  
Non Pulmonary Males 0. Females 1.

Deaths 4. This is above the average.

TABLE.

Causes of Death in Romsey Urban District, 1946.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
ALL CAUSES .....	42	31
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	1	2
Other Tuberculosis .....	1	0
Influenza .....	0	1
Cancer .....	6	6
Diabetes .....	0	1
Intra Cranial .....	3	5
Heart .....	10	13
Other Circulatory .....	4	0
Bronchitis .....	3	1
Pneumonia .....	1	0
Other Respiratory .....	1	0
Diarrhoea under 2 .....	0	1
Other Digestive .....	1	0
Nephritis .....	1	0
Other Maternal .....	0	1
Prem. birth .....	2	1
Congenital .....	1	0
Suicide .....	1	0
Road Traffic .....	1	1
Other Violent .....	1	1
All other .....	4	7

Yours faithfully,  
G. TATE,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*







